

REMARKS

Claims 13-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Song et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose or suggest the second orientation control element having a constant width which is smaller than the width of the first orientation control element, as now described in claim 13. The first orientation control element extends in a non-parallel direction relative to the extending direction of the edge of a pixel electrode, and the second orientation control element extends in a parallel direction relative to the edge.

As shown in Fig. 8A, the Song et al. reference discloses a protrusion pattern 170 and a second branch protrusion 171 extending generally parallel to an edge of a pixel electrode 200. The width of the second branch protrusion decreases gradually from the point connected to the protrusion pattern 170 to a point at its end.

In contrast, the second orientation control elements of the present invention (which extends in the parallel direction relative to the edge of the pixel electrode) has a constant width as shown, for example, in Figs. 14A and 14B. This feature is not disclosed (or suggested) in Song et al. For this reason, the present invention is allowable over Song et al.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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